

USDA Hedgerow Planting

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

FL422JS

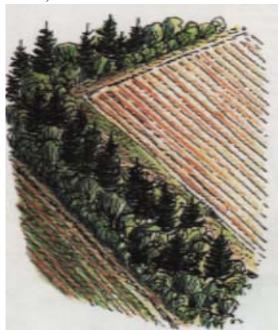
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 1999

June

Client

Definition

A hedgerow planting is the establishment of a living fence of shrub or trees in, across, or around a field.



Purpose

A hedgerow can be used to delineate field boundaries, serve as fences, establish contour guidelines, provide screens, or improve the landscape. Hedgerows also provide food and nesting cover for wildlife and allow wildlife to better utilize the adjacent fields. Hedgerows also provide some of the same benefits as windbreaks, while those on the downhill side of fields help catch sediment,

nutrients and pesticides that may wash from the field.

Where used

In, across, or around fields and pastures.

Requirements for establishing hedgerow plantings

Hedgerows should be a minimum of 15 feet wide and contain woody vegetation as a minimum; however, best results will be achieved where there is a mixture of trees. shrubs, and herbaceous species. Hedgerows may be created by either natural succession or by supplemental planting. Even those created naturally can often be improved by adding specific plants such as trees that provide both beautiful flowers and fruits useful to wildlife. Between fields, the center row(s) should consist of the tallest growing species and the average height should decrease down to the outermost rows of herbaceous vegetation.

Hedgerows separating fields from forests do not need trees, but should be established with shrubs next to the forest and herbaceous species next to the field. Herbaceous plants next to fields will help reduce competition with the crops in the fields.

Wildlife

All hedgerows attract wildlife, but the plant species selected can greatly affect the benefits provided. Hedgerows established for wildlife purposes should be a minimum of 25 feet wide, to reduce the effectiveness of predators and to provide good travel corridors. All plant species should benefit wildlife as either food or cover. Other considerations for wildlife include:

- Plant a variety of fruit-and nutproducing trees and shrubs
- Native species should be planted whenever possible.
- Hedgerow should be protected from grazing.
- The use of native, warm-season grasses should be encouraged in all hedgerows. These bunch grasses provide good nesting sites for groundnesting birds and the open spaces between plants allow good feeding habitat for birds and small mammals.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard for Hedgerow Planting (422)

Operation and Maintenance

- Control competing vegetation until the woody plants are established.
- Re-plant as necessary to maintain a continuous hedge.
- Protect from uncontrolled fire and grazing.
- Damaging pests should be monitored and controlled.
- When renovation is needed, use fire, herbicides, or mechanical means to set back the vegetation to an earlier stage of succession. Renovate no more than 1/3 of the length at one time, allowing time for re-growth.

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	Hedgerow Plan	ting - Spe	ecifications Sheet		
Client				Field Num	nber
Planner's Name		Field Number Date			
				Date	
Purpose (Check all that apply)			• 1 1		
☐ Delineate field boundaries ☐ Provide wildlife habitat	☐ Establis	☐ Provide visual	Provide visual screens		
Location and Layout	Hedgerow 1	ranuscape (Hedgerow 2	Hedgerow 3/Other	
Hedgerow width					
Hedgerow length					
Acres in hedgerow					
				L	
Plant Materials Information					
Woody Plants and Vines					
Species/cultivars:	Kind of stock 1:	Planting Date	es: Number of rows	Average spacing ² :	Total # of plants needed
Hedgerow 1					
1					
2					
3					
4					
Hedgerow 2					
1					
2					
3					
4					
Hedgerow 3 (or Other Information	n)				
1					
2					
3					
4					
¹ <u>BA</u> reroot, <u>CO</u> ntainer, <u>CU</u> tting.	² Average spacing b	etween plants	to achieve plants/acre	<u> </u>	
Herbaceous Plants					
Species/cultivars:	Seeding rate (lbs/ac)¹ Or Sprigging rate	Planting Date	Recommended lime (tons/ac)	Recommended fertilizer N-P ₂ O ₅ -K ₂ O (lbs/ac)	Total # of PLS needed
Hedgerow 1					
1					
2					1
3					1
4					1
Hedgerow 2					
1					
2					
3					1
					_

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Hedgerow 3/Other Information									
1									
2									
3									
4									
¹ Pure live seed (PLS) where available.]	_							
Pure live seed (PLS) where available.		TOTAL:							
Site Preparation									
Where sod-forming grasses are established, kill with herbicide as first step of site prep. Apply recommended lime and fertilizer and prepare a firm seedbed. Additional requirements:									
Planting Methods For container and bare root stock, plant stock to a depth even with the root collar in holes deep and wide enoughto fully extend the roots. Pack the soil firmly around each plant. Cuttings are inserted in moist soil with at least 2 to 3 buds showing above ground. Control competing vegetation until well established. Drill grass and legume seedinches deep uniformly over area. Additional requirements:									
Hedgerow maintenance Inspect periodically and protect from damage (e.g., grazing, herbicides, mechanical, etc.) so proper function is maintained. Replace dead or dying tree and shrub stock and continue control of competing vegetation until hedgerow is established. Damaged areas should be repaired and/or re-vegetated. When renovation is needed, cutback or burn only part of the hedgerow at a time, allowing re-growth before doing the next section. Additional requirements:									
	Hedgerow	Planting – Job	h Sketch						
An aerial view of the hedgerow is shown below. O structures and crop types, and additional specificati	ther relevant inform	mation, such as locati		adjacent field or tract co	onditions, including				
Approximate scale: 1"=ft. (NA indicates	sketch not to scal	e)							
Additional Specifications and Notes:									